



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Bend National Park  
P.O. Box 129  
Big Bend National Park, TX 79834

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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David Elkowitz  
432-477-1108

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## Big Bend National Park News Release

### **BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK ANNOUNCES INCREASED ENTRANCE FEE AND A BACKCOUNTRY USE FEE**

Effective January 1, 2007, Big Bend National Park will be increasing visitor entrance fees as directed by the results of a nationwide National Park Service fee study that sought to provide consistency of fees charged between parks of similar sizes and resources. Therefore, the single vehicle entrance fee will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00. The per person and motorcycle fee will increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Both passes are good for up to a one week stay. The park's Annual Pass will increase from \$30.00 to \$40.00, and will be valid for one full year after the date of purchase. Additionally, a backcountry and river use fee of \$10.00 per permit will be charged, with all revenue being used for backcountry-related projects.

The Annual Pass was last increased in 2004 from \$20.00 to \$30.00, with the single vehicle entrance fee last increased in early 2003. In order to increase entrance fees, national parks must perform a comparability study to determine fair and comparable rates. Big Bend National Park conducted a comparability study of parks across the state of Texas in March, 2006. The National Park Service granted approval of the study in May, 2006.

Big Bend National Park participates in the National Park Service Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Eighty percent of the entrance fee revenue collected returns to the park and is used to fund backlogged maintenance and visitor related projects that provide direct benefit to park visitors. Past fee demonstration projects include the replacement of the Rio Grande Village Nature Trail boardwalk, the installation of a permanent vault toilet at the Hot Springs parking lot, a new interpretive contact station and exhibits at Castolon, and the soon to be expanded Panther Junction Visitor Center.

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